

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method for inactivating viruses in a ~~body fluid~~ blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue and an amount of the ~~body fluid~~ blood or blood component in separate sterile, ~~sealed~~ containers, each container having an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material and the container in which the ~~body fluid~~ blood or blood component is stored includes portions that are made of a polyvinyl chloride material;

forming a mixture by adding at least a portion of the amount of the methylene blue to the amount of the ~~body fluid~~ blood or blood component wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue and further wherein the mixture formed is within one of the containers in which the methylene blue or ~~body fluid~~ blood or blood component is initially stored under sterile conditions; and

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed.

Claim 29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (currently amended): The method of Claim 29 wherein the blood component is selected from the group consisting of: plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

Claim 31 (canceled)

Claim 32 (currently amended): The method of Claim 28 further comprising the step of: adding the methylene blue to the container in which the ~~body fluid~~ blood or blood component is already stored.

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method of Claim 28 further comprising the step of: adding the ~~body fluid~~ blood or blood component to the container that contains methylene blue.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (previously added): The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of: transporting the mixture in the container in which the mixture is formed on a conveyor past at least two light sources.

Claim 37 (canceled)

Claim 38 (previously added): The method of claim 28 wherein the light field is generated by at least one array of light emitting diodes.

Claim 39 (previously added): The method of claim 28 wherein the mixture is irradiated by the light field for a cumulative period of at least five minutes.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A method for inactivating viruses in a ~~body fluid~~ blood or blood component, the method comprising the steps of:

initially storing an amount of methylene blue in a container that includes an interior and at least one port extending from the container that provides controlled access to the interior, the

container is constructed of a plastic material and includes an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride, plastic material;

forming a mixture by adding at least a portion of the amount of the methylene blue to an amount of the ~~body fluid~~blood or blood component, by use of the port, wherein the portion of methylene blue is a virucidally effective amount of the methylene blue and further wherein the mixture formed is within either the container or in a second container that initially housed the ~~body fluid~~blood or blood component; and

irradiating the mixture with a light field of a suitable intensity and wavelength for activating the methylene blue for a time sufficient to inactivate viruses in the mixture, while maintaining the mixture under a substantially no flow condition within the container in which the mixture is formed.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): The method of Claim 41 wherein the blood component is selected from the group consisting of: plasma, red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets.

Claim 43 (previously added): The method of Claim 40 wherein the container in which the mixture is formed does not include any polyvinyl chloride plastic.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The method of Claim 40 further comprising the step of: adding the methylene blue to the second container in which the ~~body fluid~~blood or blood component is housed.

Claim 45 (previously added): The method of Claim 40 wherein the container in which the mixture is formed includes a polyvinyl chloride material.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The method of Claim 40 further comprising the step of: adding the ~~body fluid~~blood or blood component to the container that contains methylene blue.

Claim 47 (previously added): The method of Claim 40 wherein the container in which the mixture is formed comprises at least an inner surface made of a non-polyvinyl chloride material.

Claim 48 (previously added): The method of Claim 40 further comprising the step of: transporting the mixture in the container in which the mixture is formed on a conveyor past at least two light sources.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The method of Claim 40 further comprising the step of: allowing excess methylene blue to leach into the container in which the ~~body fluid~~blood or blood component is stored after mixture with the methylene blue.

Claim 50 (previously added): The method of Claim 40 wherein the light field is generated by at least one array of light emitting diodes.

Claim 51 (previously added): The method of Claim 40 wherein the mixture is irradiated by the light field for a cumulative period of at least five minutes.